

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. *(currently amended)* A An implantable medical device comprising:  
    a housing having an exterior surface ;  
    ~~a carrier having a surface comprising a polymer~~ film applied to the exterior  
    surface of the implantable medical device housing; and  
    a polynucleotide associated with at least a portion of the polymer and providing  
    an antimicrobial effect to inhibit the growth of pathogenic microorganisms,  
    ~~wherein the polynucleotide is not present in a cell.~~
2. The medical device of claim 1 wherein the implantable medical device carrier is an implantable pulse generator.
3. *(cancelled)*
4. *(original)* The medical device of claim 1 wherein the polymer is a porous polymer.
5. *(original)* The medical device of claim 4 wherein the porous polymer is a natural porous polymer.
6. *(original )* The medical device of claim 5 wherein the natural porous polymer is selected from the group consisting of collagen, gelatin, elastin, fibrin, hyaluronic acid, and a glycosaminoglycan.
7. *(withdrawn)*
8. *(original )* The medical device of claim 4 wherein the porous polymer is a synthetic porous polymer.
9. *(original)* The medical device of claim 8 wherein the synthetic porous polymer is a biodegradable synthetic porous polymer selected from the group consisting of polyglycolic acid, polylactic acid, polydioxanone, poly( $\epsilon$ -caprolactone), polyanhydrides, poly( $\beta$ -hydroxybutyrate), poly(ortho esters), poly(amino acids), polyiminocarbonates, and mixtures thereof.

10. *(original)* The medical device of claim 1 wherein the polynucleotide comprises a coding sequence encoding an antimicrobial peptide.

11. *(original)* The medical device of claim 1 wherein the polynucleotide is condensed.

12. *(original)* The medical device of claim 11 wherein the condensed polynucleotide is linked to a receptor ligand.

13. *(original)* The medical device of claim 1 wherein the polynucleotide is enclosed in a liposome.

14. *(original)* The medical device of claim 13 wherein the enclosed polynucleotide is linked to a receptor ligand.

15-24. *(withdrawn)*

25. *(currently amended)* A method for local delivery of a polynucleotide to a patient reducing implantable medical device-related infections in a patient, the method comprising:

providing a medical device comprising a housing having a surface provided with a polymer film; and [[:]]

~~a carrier having a surface comprising a polymer; and~~

providing a polynucleotide associated with at least a portion of the polymer, wherein the polynucleotide is not present in a cell; and

implanting the medical device into the body of a patient; wherein the polynucleotide is released from the medical device upon being implanted in a patient.

26. *(original)* The method of claim 25 wherein the carrier is an implantable pulse generator.

27. *(cancelled)*

28. *(original)* The method of claim 25 wherein the polymer is a porous polymer.

29. *(original)* The method of claim 28 wherein the porous polymer is a natural porous polymer.

30. *(original)* The method of claim 29 wherein the natural porous polymer is selected from the group consisting of collagen, gelatin, elastin, fibrin, hyaluronic acid, and a glycosaminoglycan.

31. *(withdrawn)*

32. *(original)* The method of claim 28 wherein the porous polymer is a synthetic porous polymer.

33. *(original)* The method of claim 32 wherein the synthetic porous polymer is a biodegradable synthetic porous polymer selected from the group consisting of polyglycolic acid, polylactic acid, polydiaxanone, poly(ε-caprolactone), polyanhydrides, poly(3-hydroxybutyrate), poly(ortho esters), poly(amino acids), polyiminocarbonates, and mixtures thereof.

34. The method of claim 25 wherein the polynucleotide comprises a coding sequence encoding an antimicrobial peptide.

35. *(original)* The method of claim 25 wherein the polynucleotide is condensed.

36. *(original)* The method of claim 35 wherein the condensed polynucleotide is linked to a receptor ligand.

37. *(original)* The method of claim 25 wherein the polynucleotide is enclosed in a liposome.

38. *(original)* The method of claim 37 wherein the enclosed polynucleotide is linked to a receptor ligand.

39-48. *(withdrawn)*

49. *(currently amended)* A method for ~~making a medical device for local delivery of a polynucleotide~~ reducing implantable medical device-related infections in a patient, the method comprising:

providing a an implantable medical device comprising a ~~carrier~~ housing having a surface ~~comprising~~ provided with a polymer film;

providing a polynucleotide; and

contacting the polymer with the polynucleotide.

50. *(original)* The method of claim 49 wherein the polynucleotide comprises a coding region encoding an antimicrobial peptide.

51-52. *(cancelled)*

53-54. *(withdrawn)*